



February 14, 2017

## KANSAS BULLETIN NO. KS300-17-32

### **SUBJECT: LTP–Environmental Quality Incentives Program–Fiscal Year 2017 Monarch Butterfly Habitat Development Project**

**Purpose:** To provide guidance for implementing the fiscal year (FY) 2017 Monarch Butterfly Habitat Development Project (MBHP) available through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP).

**Expiration Date:** September 30, 2018

#### **Background**

The monarch butterfly has suffered from significant population declines over the past two decades. In light of this, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is targeting an EQIP effort to the core migration route and the primary breeding range located in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, Oklahoma, Texas, and Wisconsin.

In Kansas, the effort is focused on improving monarch habitat on existing grasslands with management practices such as prescribed grazing and prescribed burning. Plantings of milkweeds and monarch nectaring forbs on other land uses will also be part of the Kansas Monarch Butterfly Project.

#### **Screening Criteria**

Applications will be considered **HIGH** priority if more than 50 percent of the offered acreage is located in a county identified in the Monarch Butterfly Project found in Attachment 1.

All other applications outside the above described “Screening Criteria” shall not be considered for funding through the Monarch Butterfly Project and are **INELIGIBLE**.

#### **Eligible Land Uses, Resource Concerns, and Conservation Practices (CP)**

The eligible land uses, resource concerns, and CPs are available in Attachment 2.

A wildlife plan will be required including CP 645–Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (non-financial assistance and not included in the NRCS-CPA-1155) as the umbrella practice for other scheduled treatments. The monarch butterfly will be the targeted species. The benchmark condition and habitat treatment practices will be determined with the USDA NRCS Monarch Butterfly Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Guide (WHEG) and Decision Support Tool: Southern Great Plains Edition.

#### **Program Contracts System (ProTracts) Ranking Tool**

The ProTracts fund code for this project is “Monarch Butterfly Project”. The ProTracts cost list is “KScountynameEQIP2017-01-EQIP”. The Toolkit cost list is “KS17\_EQIP”. National ranking questions are consistent for all EQIP applications. Refer to Bulletin KS300-17-8, Fiscal Year 2017 Environmental Quality Incentives Program–Ranking Process–National Priorities, for additional information on national ranking questions. A copy of the state and local ranking questions is provided in Attachment 3.

(more)

DIST: A, F, S

Natural Resources Conservation Service  
760 South Broadway Boulevard  
Salina, Kansas 67401-4604

Phone: 785-823-4500  
FAX: 855-355-5070  
www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov

**Technical Assistance**

Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWPT) area biologists will assist with the monarch butterfly habitat assessments. NRCS is responsible for contract development, contract administration, contract reviews, and follow-up for MBHP contracts.

**Contact:** Please forward questions through established channels to Joel A. Willhoft, Resource Conservationist, at (785) 624-3127, or [joel.willhoft@ks.usda.gov](mailto:joel.willhoft@ks.usda.gov).

*(signed)*

ERIC B. BANKS  
State Conservationist

Attachments